

BUBMISSION

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Submission to the joint Committee on The National Capital Authority

i have been concerned for some time about people feeding the black swans on Lake Burley Griffin with food which is harmful to them, for example white bread which has a lot of chemical additives. Please see my enclosed information on food additives. This occurs especially in the parks close to the Kingston Foreshores. Because of the large amount of bread etc., being thrown into the water, carp are also attracted to the areas around the swans.

As a consequence anglers are fishing in these places and the swans and birds frequently get their beaks, feet and necks tangled in the fishing tackle. A lot of this tackle is discarded tackle entangling the wildlife.

The solutions I believe are to ban fishing where the swans gather and to ban throwing unsultable food to the swans. I suggest NCA build a kiosk which sells appropriate food for the swans and have Rangers, clear signs about the damage to swans caused by inappropriate food and fishing tackle. For further advice NCA should contact the Lake Rangers, Wildlife Associations, WIRES and MLA Kerrie Tucker.

In many parts of the world including Australia the feeding of wild life has been banned due to the damage it does to them. I feel NCA has been very negligent in not doing something about protecting the swans inspite of the fact NCA has been informed of people's concerns for a number of years. Enclosed are letters from MLA Kerry Tucker and Press Statement by Brendan Smyth MLA and report on damaging food additives and chemicals in bread. Penelope Ann Upward: BA Visual Arts; Grad Dip of Ed; Grad Dip Art History & Curatorship. Cert Conservation & Cultural Preservation. 11 May 2003

Pg (02) 6247 7359.

FILE GOPY

Vaulefe chn Lyhomd

Kerrie Tucker MLA Member for Molonglo



Ms Penelope Upward

Dear Penelope

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 6 May 1999 to Dr Frawley regarding fishing line entanglement and the feeding of swans and pelicans on Lake Burley Griffin.

The fishing and bird feeding activities around the lake is obviously having a detrimental impact on the water birds that needs to be addressed. I am disappointed that little progress seems to have been made by government officials to address this issue. I have now sent a letter to the Chief Executive of the National Capital Authority echoing your concerns and seeking their urgent resolution of this issue.

Hopefully this might stimulate further action by the NCA. I will let you know their response.

Yours sincerely

one Tocke

Kerrie Tucker 1 July 1999

Kerrie Tucker Member for Molonglo Phone: 61 02 6205 0161 Fax: 61 02 6205 0007 Email: tucker@dpa.act.gov.au

Legislative Assembly of the ACT GPO Box 1020 Canberra ACT 2601





Australian Capital Territory

DEAD AND INJURED BLACK SWANS FOUND ON CANBERRA'S URBAN LAKES

1999

Canberra's Lakes Rangers have found several injured and dead black swans on our lakes, prompting an appeal by ACT Urban Services Minister Brendan Smyth for public help to protect these native birds.

"The lakes rangers have found three dead and at least 10 injured black swans in the last three months. Many of the injuries appear to be the result of human attacks. The injuries are mainly broken limbs, deliberately catching and wrapping birds in fishing line, and inserting hooks and, lures into them. It is not always done in the way he of Negle

"I am very concerned that some people are deliberately harming these beautiful birds -a disgusting act that is unforgivable," Mr Smyth said.

"An autopsy was done last week on one of the birds which was found to have died as a result of poison. While we cannot rule out accidental poisoning, the swan also had injuries consistent with being beaten with a stick. It certainly looks like someone has attacked this swan.

"Lately, black swans have been moving away from Lake Burley Griffin and the Jerrabomberra Wetlands to urban ponds and lakes such as Lake Tuggeranong. Some have paired up and had offspring.

"As these lakes and ponds are in urban areas, people are starting to hand-feed the birds. It is important that if people do this, they use food close to the birds' natural diet such as grains (wheat) and NOT bread. It is also vitally important to feed them only a little and at different times and locations, to encourage the swans to disperse around the waterways in search of natural food sources as well.

"This also discourages the birds from congregating in one area for long periods of time, reducing the likelihood of someone harming them. The problem with people feeding the birds is that the swans begin to trust humans and become dependent on artificial food sources.

"However the message we need to get out to the public is <u>DON'T FEED THE BIRDS</u>. They should not become tame, as it may lead to their death. Unfortunately, as the past few months have shown, not everyone has good intentions towards the swans. I want to discourage people from feeding native birds for the birds' own safety."

Any members of the public who see injured waterbirds or witness any suspicious behaviour should contact the Lakes Rangers on 6207 2315 or Environment ACT Helpline on 6207 9777.

Injuring or killing native animals is a serious offence under the Nature Conservation Act 1980. Offenders risk fines of up to \$10,000 or 12 months' imprisonment or both.

"This is a very serious matter, and I urge anyone with any information about the animal cruelty or anyone who sees people acting suspiciously to come forward immediately," Mr Smyth said. Statement ends / Friday 11 June 1999 m590: Jo Elsom, office 6205 0062 mobile 0419 604 131.

media590





"I can't have red cordial, green cordial - anything with colours in it," Jake said.

"You wouldn't think that normal food would be able to do this but it can and it's harmful." Molly said.

To send us ideas, click

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So why are these foods linked to asthma attacks?